LEPROSY—CHOONDAL VILLAGE

90. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they are aware of the spread of leprosy in Pudusseri Choondal Village, Talappalli Taluk;

(*b*) if answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, the steps taken to arrest the infection;

(*c*) if the answer is in the negative will they be pleased to depute the necessary technical staff to enquire and collect actual statistics of such patients in Choondal Eravallur Villages without further delay and inform the results by publication?

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese (*Chief Medical Officer*):

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A survey was conducted in Pudusseri and adjacent villages and a leprosy treatment centre was opened at Pudusseri. Treatment is given to lepers in this centre by a Sub-Assistant Surgeon from the Kunnamkulam Hospital.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Announcement of election of a Member to the Road Board

Mr. President: I have to announce that Mr. George Panikulam has been nominated as a member of the Road Board. As his is the only nomination paper received he has been duly elected.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT BILLS

The Cochin Employment of Children Bill

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General)*: Sir, I beg to move that the Cochin Employment of Children Bill be taken up and finally passed.

Motion put and carried

The Cochin Starting of Kuries Restriction Bill

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: I beg to move that the Cochin Starting of Kuries Restriction Bill be taken up and finally passed.

Amendments

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: I ask for permission to move my amendment.

Mr. President: Yes.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: I beg to move that in clause 3 of the Bill "Delete the portion beginning with the word "where" and ending with the word respectively" and insert between the word "Foreman" and "shall" the following.

"Of every kuri started on or after the 1st Chingam 1118".

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: On a point of order. My point is that this amendment is out of order.

Mr. President: Order, order. I have already indicated that I have given permission.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: The President has no power but only the Diwan.

Mr. President: Order, order. I am speaking in either capacity.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: In moving this amendment my purpose was indicated in my speech in support of the Bill when it was moved for consideration yesterday. I am of opinion that the Government has not gone sufficiently forward in prohibiting every kuri. Even the power to regulate the starting of Kuries ought to have been taken by the Government. That is my personal view. Government ought to have banned all kuries for a period of 10 years. Anyway since the Bill has been introduced at least to regulate, that regulation should not be restricted to bigger firms and not to individuals. Smaller Companies are more dangerous than big companies and in the matter of individuals and institutions starting Kuries there ought to be sufficient restriction in the interests of the people and in the interests of the villagers who have more chances of being enrolled as subscribers in smaller Kuries and in small and insecure banks and insecure institutions as small Devaswams, and not sufficiently affluent churches, such an amendment seems to be very highly necessary.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur)*: I beg to oppose the amendment.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General)*: I wish to make a statement before the amendment is discussed. In the course of the discussion of this Bill yesterday there were several opinions expressed on the floor of this House, and I made also a statement in my speech to the

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effect that the opinion of the House for enlarging the scope of the Bill will be noted by Government. The present amendment appears to be too wide. It will relate to every Kuri irrespective of whether it is run as a business or only to tide over a private financial need. Companies or private individuals who run Kuries as a "business" as distinguished from those Kuries which are run say, for the purposes of raising funds for a marriage or for any other domestic contingency alone need be further brought within the ambit of the Bill. Government must have time to consider that question by gathering statistics and if Government are satisfied that there is a case for further amendment, to the effect that every Kuri should be brought within the ambit of this Bill then I can hold out that Government themselves may introduce an amendment at the next meeting or soon after the investigation is over. Under these circumstances, I request the Hon'ble Member to withdraw his amendment.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* In the light of the position taken up by the Government I do not wish to press the motion now. But the explanation given by the Advocate-General is not very satisfactory. Because for the purpose of giving a daughter in marriage by a private individual the starting of a Kuri is rather a very dangerous concern. Marriage itself is becoming a menace to society especially in the matter of economics and economic concerns. So I request leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion put and carried

The Cochin Employers' Liability Bill

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I beg to move that the Cochin Employers' Liability Bill be taken up and finally passed.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* I second it.

Motion put and carried.

The Cochin Local Authorities Entertainments Tax Act (Amendment) Bill

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I beg to move that the Cochin Local Authorities Entertainments Tax Act (Amendment) Bill be taken up and finally passed.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* I second it.

Motion put and carried.

The Cochin Workmen's Compensation Act (Amendment) Bill

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocte-General):* I beg to move that the Cochin Workmen's Compensation Act (Amendment) Bill may be taken up and finally passed.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* I second it.

Motion put and carried.

The Cochin Panchayat Bill

Mr. President: Cochin Panchayat Bill.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Before we proceed further with the discussion I would like to move that since there are so many amendments at short notice the further consideration of the Bill may be had at the next meeting. Some of the amendments are of far reaching consequence. Since we have not been given sufficient time it will be unfair both to the Council and to the members, I move that the further consideration of the Bill may be postponed to Makaram meeting.

Mr. Joseph Petta *(Adur):* I second it.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* I agree.

Motion put and carried.

The Cochin Arbitration Bill

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* I beg to move that the Cochin Arbitration Bill be read in Council.

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I second it.

Motion put and carried.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* The Arbitration Act which is now in force in Cochin was passed in the year 1108. That Act was based on the Indian Arbitration Act of 1899. Subsequent to that in the year 1940 the Indian Arbitration Act has undergone very radical changes and that was the result of the Enquiry Report of a special Civil Justice Committee appointed by the Government of India to go into the question of reforming the law of arbitration and a special officer was also appointed to review the report. In accordance with

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